

PSALM OFFERING 6, OPUS 9 (for Diane Weckman)

I was reflecting on Psalm 27 as I composed this Psalm Offering.

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes— they shall stumble and fall.
Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord; be strong,
and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!
(Psalm 27:1-4, 13-14)

The psalmist affirms his trust in God, in whom the psalmist finds light and salvation. Though the events of his life may seem to be stacked up against him, the psalmist knows that hope lay only in God. The motivating emotion in the life of the psalmist is desiring to behold God. The psalmist longs to be in the sanctuary of God, in the land of life.

I have dedicated this psalm to my good friend and colleague, Diane Weckman. I have grown close to Diane and her family over the past 8 to 9 years. She was a major leader in the rural parish of St Benedict, and though St Benedict was merged with four other parishes and later demolished, Diane has continued to be provide positive leadership in the newly created parish.

ABOUT THE MUSIC. This song is a vibrant waltz, composed in the key of C major. It is essentially in three part, AB form. The A melody actually has two distinct versions, A1 and A2 both introduced in the beginning of the music. The overall structure is: A1A2BA1BA2BA1Coda.

Melody A1

Piano

Measures 1-5 of Melody A1, Piano part. The music is in 3/4 time and begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment of chords. The bass line includes the instruction "Ped." with an asterisk under each measure.

Pno.

Measures 6-11 of Melody A1, Pno. part. The right hand continues the melodic line, including a triplet of eighth notes in measure 10. The left hand accompaniment remains consistent. The dynamic is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano) starting in measure 8. The bass line includes the instruction "Ped." with an asterisk under each measure.

Pno.

Measures 12-15 of Melody A1, Pno. part. The right hand features a more active melodic line with sixteenth notes and slurs. The left hand accompaniment continues. The dynamic is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte) starting in measure 15. The bass line includes the instruction "Ped." with an asterisk under each measure.

Melody A2

Pno.

Measures 12-16 of Melody A2, Pno. part. This section continues the piano accompaniment from the previous system, with the right hand playing a melodic line and the left hand providing harmonic support. The dynamic is marked *mf*. The bass line includes the instruction "Ped." with an asterisk under each measure.

Pno.

Measures 17-22 of Melody A2, Pno. part. The right hand continues with a melodic line, and the left hand provides harmonic accompaniment. The bass line includes the instruction "Ped." with an asterisk under each measure.

Melody B

Pno.

28

mp

Reo. *

Reo. *

Reo. *

Reo. *

Reo. *

Reo. *

Detailed description: This system contains measures 28 through 33. The right hand features a melodic line with a half-note chord at the start, followed by eighth-note patterns and a half-note chord. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamic markings include *mp* and *Reo.* with an asterisk.

Pno.

34

Reo. *

Reo. *

Reo. *

Reo. *

Reo. *

Reo. *

Detailed description: This system contains measures 34 through 39. The right hand has a melodic line with eighth-note patterns and a half-note chord. The left hand continues with eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamic markings include *Reo.* with an asterisk.

Pno.

40

Reo. *

Reo. *

Reo. *

Reo. *

Reo. *

Reo. *

Detailed description: This system contains measures 40 through 45. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth-note patterns and a half-note chord. The left hand plays eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamic markings include *Reo.* with an asterisk.

Pno.

46

pp

mf

Reo. *

Reo. *

Reo. *

Reo. *

Reo. *

Reo. *

Detailed description: This system contains measures 46 through 51. The right hand has a melodic line with eighth-note patterns and a half-note chord. The left hand plays eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamic markings include *pp*, *mf*, and *Reo.* with an asterisk.